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006

STAR WARS®



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STAR WARSTM

Artoo-Detoo (R2-D2)



Book I, Part VI

SKYWALKER STRIKES

It is a period of renewed hope for the Rebellion. The evil Galactic Empire's greatest weapon, the Death Star, has been destroyed by the young rebel pilot Luke Skywalker.

But Skywalker knows he has a long way to go if he ever hopes to become a true Jedi. Seeking clues to his destiny, he has returned to Tatooine, to the home of his departed mentor, Ben Kenobi. Meanwhile, Darth Vader is seeking answers of his own and has hired the notorious bounty hunter Boba Fett to track down the mysterious pilot who destroyed the Death Star.

Fett has found his man. And his flash grenade leaves young Skywalker blinded and alone....

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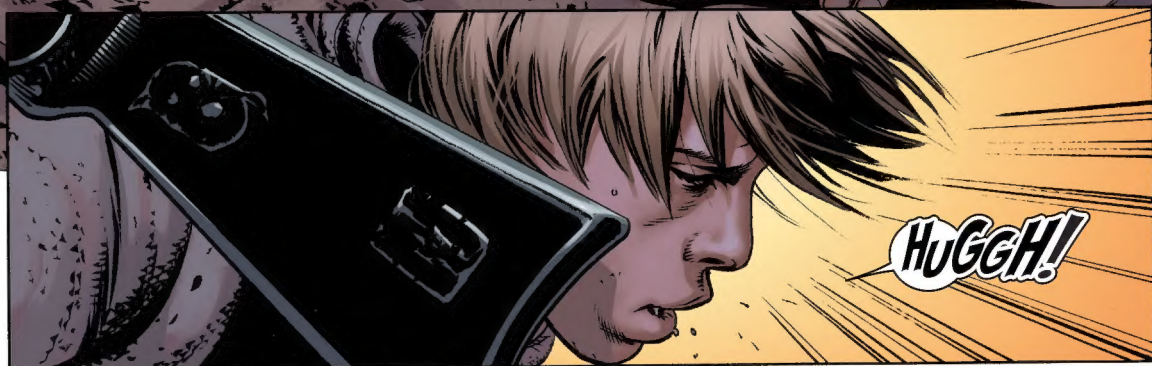


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ARTOO...?
I CAN'T
SEE!

WHAT'S
HAPPENED?
ARE YOU--



HUGGH!

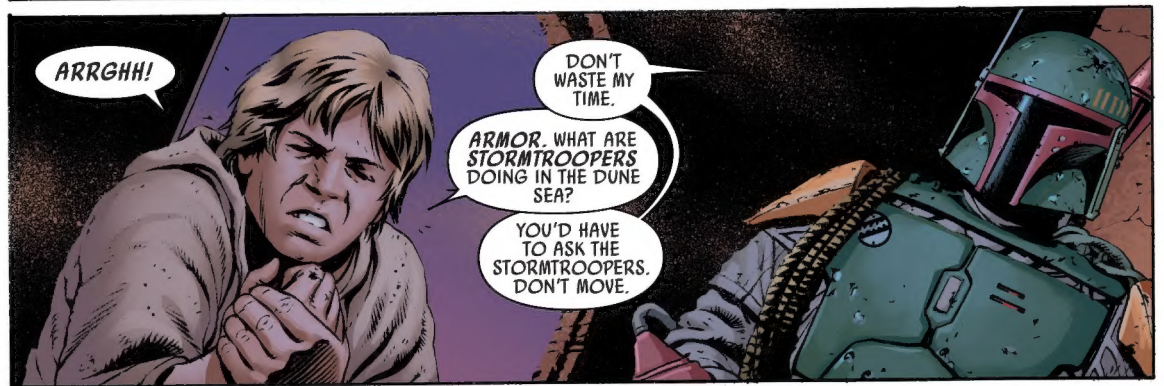


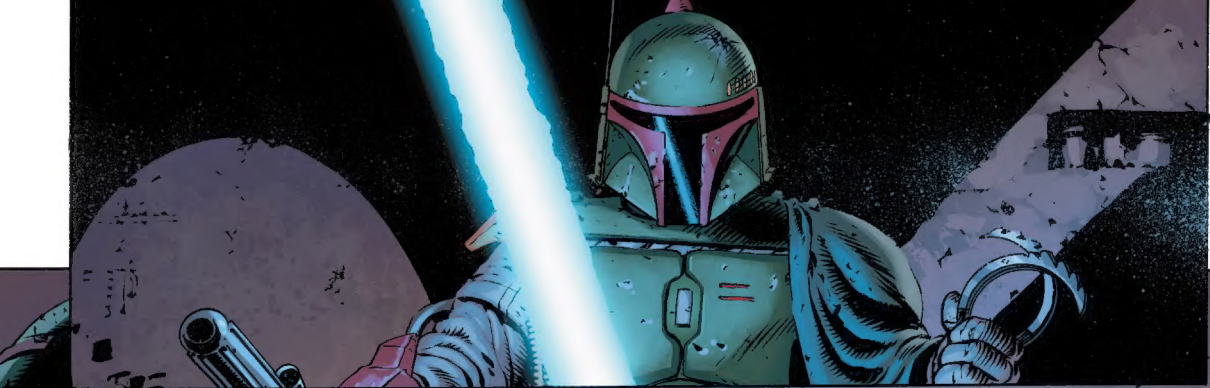
THAT WAS
THE BUTT OF THE
RIFLE THAT'S NOW
POINTED AT YOUR
HEAD.

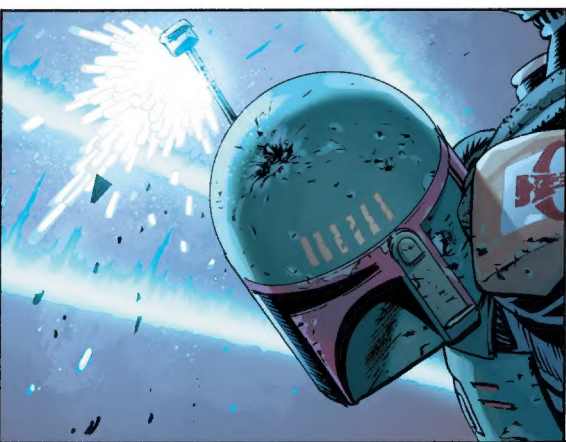
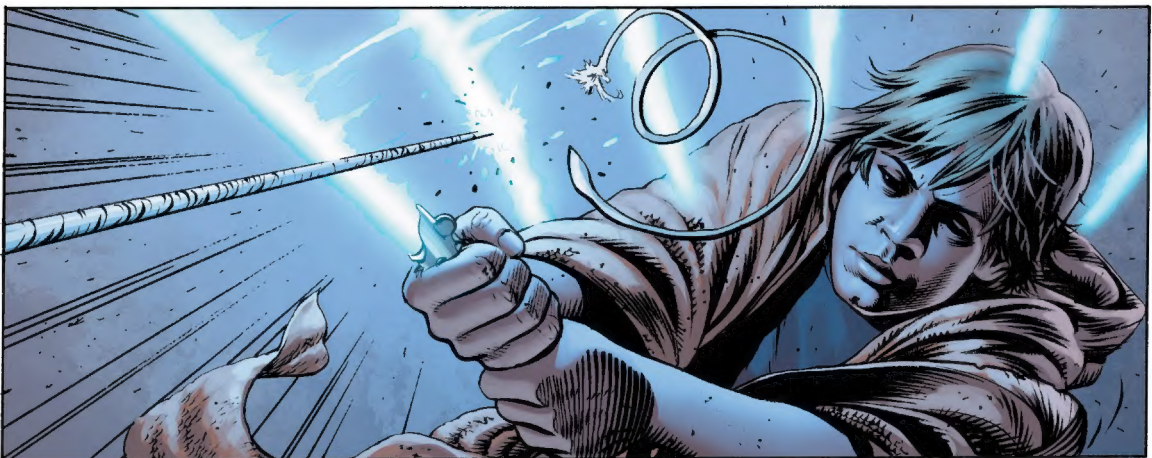
STAY
DOWN.



SKYWALKER.







HGGH!



YOUR
ARMOR'S
NOISY.

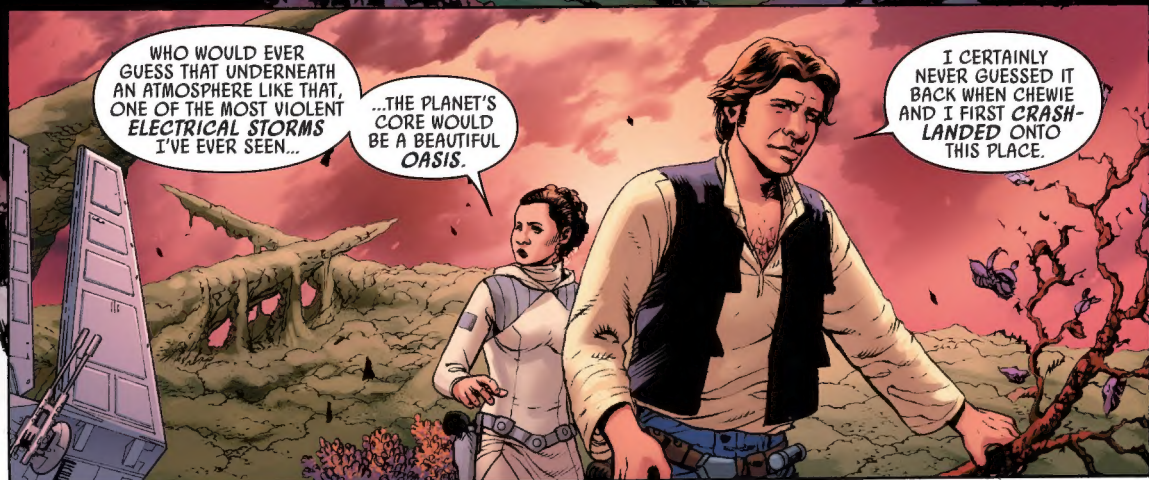


SO'S YOUR
MOUTH.





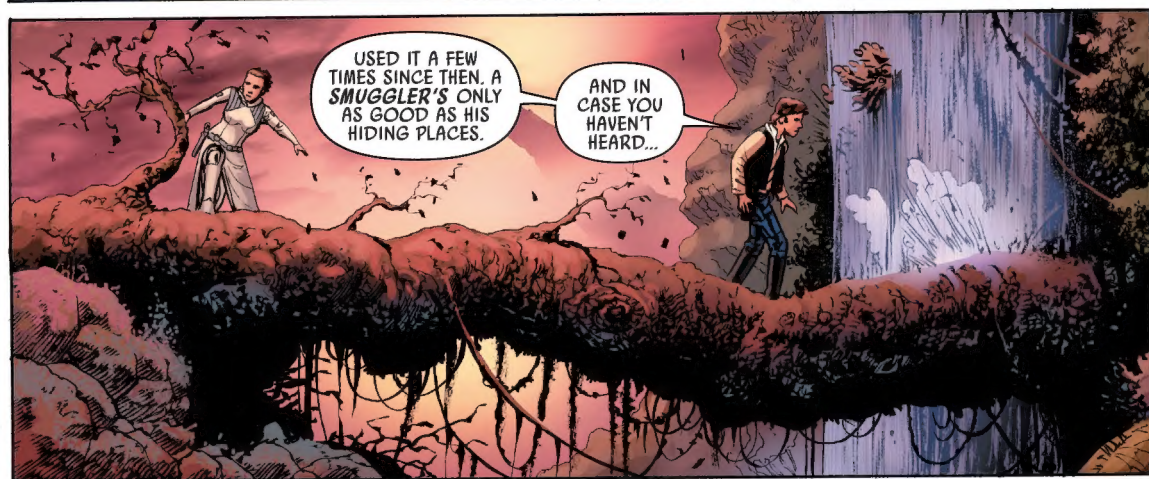
THIS IS
INCREDIBLE.



WHO WOULD EVER
GUESS THAT UNDERNEATH
AN ATMOSPHERE LIKE THAT,
ONE OF THE MOST VIOLENT
ELECTRICAL STORMS
I'VE EVER SEEN...

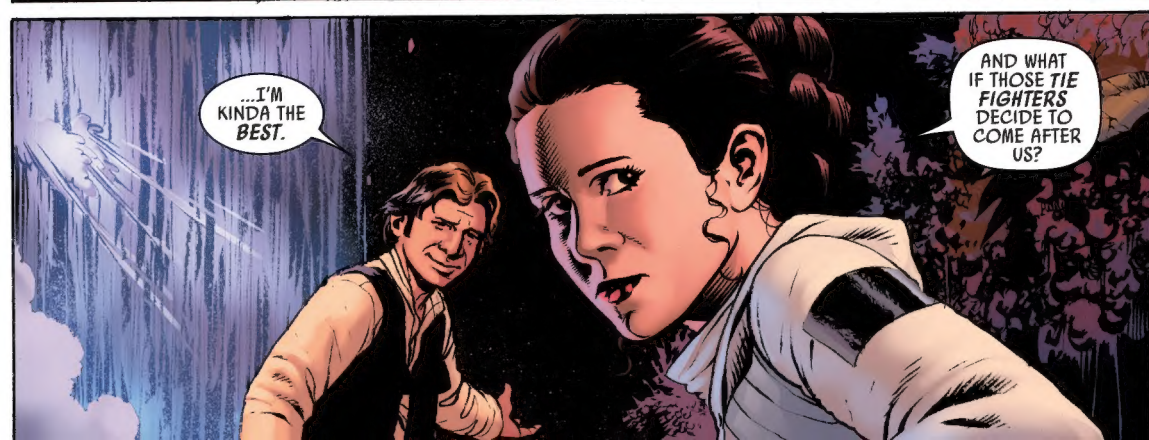
...THE PLANET'S
CORE WOULD
BE A BEAUTIFUL
OASIS.

I CERTAINLY
NEVER GUESSED IT
BACK WHEN CHEWIE
AND I FIRST **CRASH-**
LANDED ONTO
THIS PLACE.



USED IT A FEW
TIMES SINCE THEN. A
SMUGGLER'S ONLY
AS GOOD AS HIS
HIDING PLACES.

AND IN
CASE YOU
HAVEN'T
HEARD...



...I'M
KINDA THE
BEST.

AND WHAT
IF THOSE **TIE**
FIGHTERS
DECIDE TO
COME AFTER
US?



LET'S
HOPE THEY
DO.

THOSE IMPERIALS
ARE SHORT-RANGE
PILOTS, NOT DEEP-SPACE
SMUGGLERS. THEY'D NEVER
MAKE IT THROUGH
THE STORMS.



SCANNERS CAN'T
PIERCE DOWN HERE EITHER.
WITH ANY LUCK, THOSE
BUCKETHEADS WILL FIGURE
WE'RE DEAD AND LEAVE
US BE.

STILL, BEST IF
WE WAIT A BIT BEFORE
WE GO STICKING OUR
HEADS OUT, JUST
TO BE SURE.



THIS WORLD
COULD BE USEFUL
TO THE REBELLION.
OTHER THAN
CHEWBACCA, WHO
ELSE KNOWS THIS
IS HERE?



AH, BLESS
YOU, CHEWIE.
BLESS YOU FOR NOT
DRINKING IT ALL.

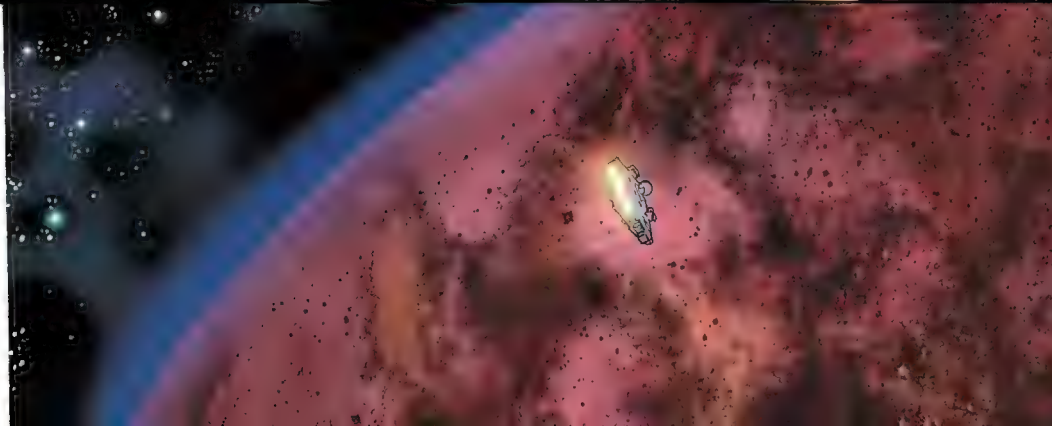
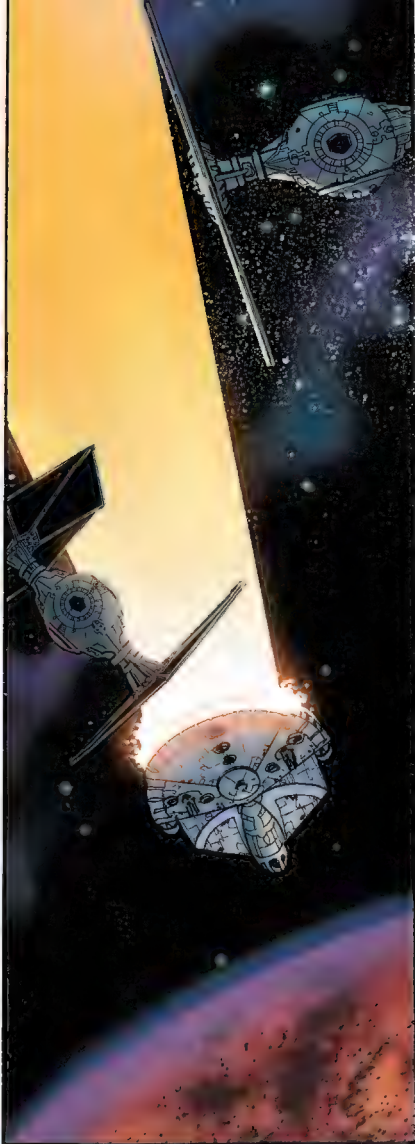
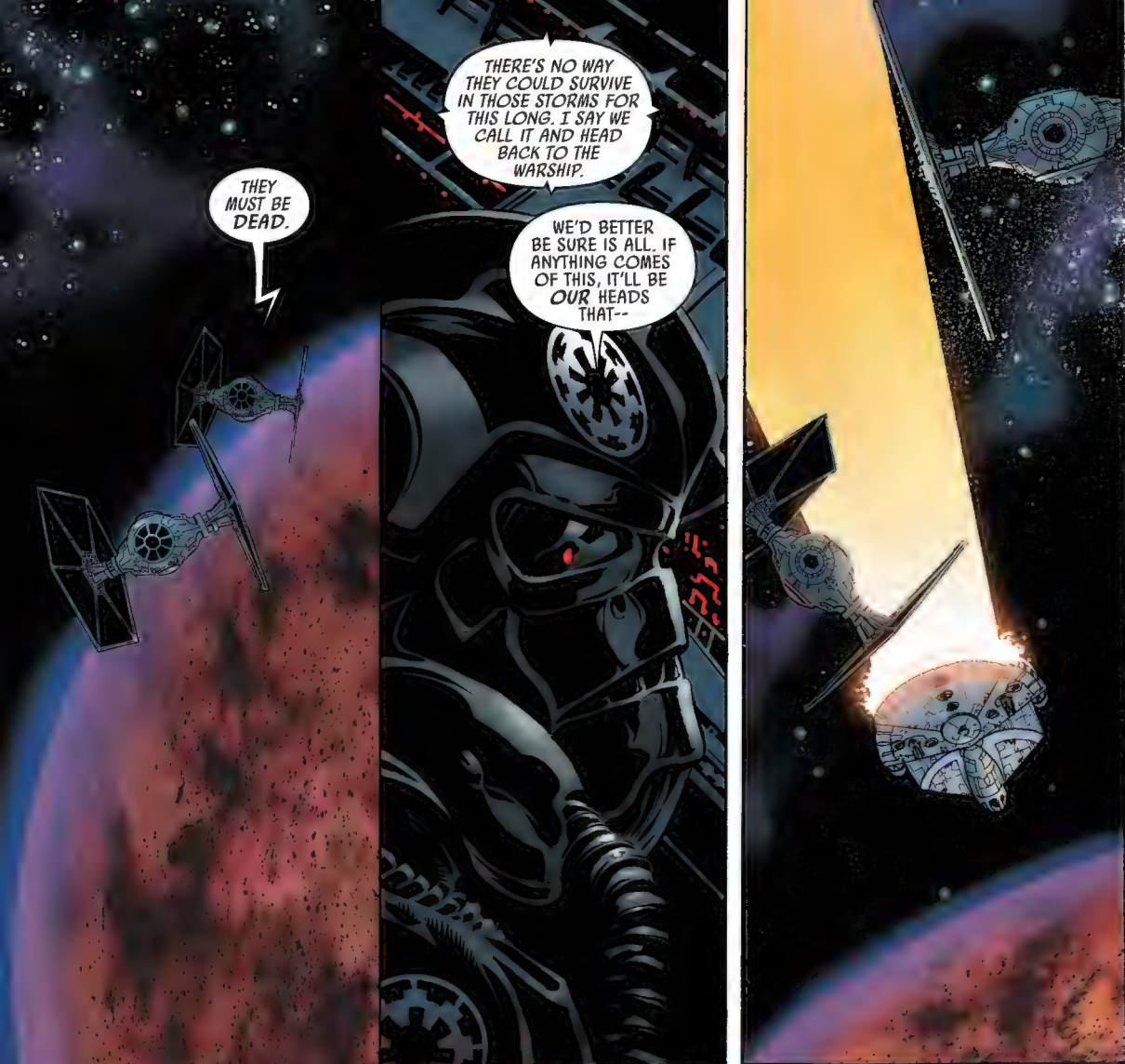
HAN?

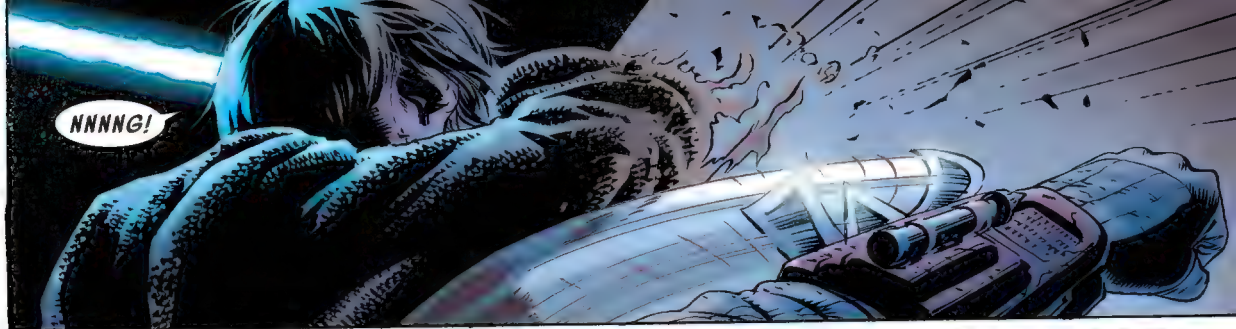
NOBODY,
YOUR HIGHNESS.
NOBODY ELSE IN
THE WHOLE GALAXY
KNOWS ABOUT
THIS PLACE.

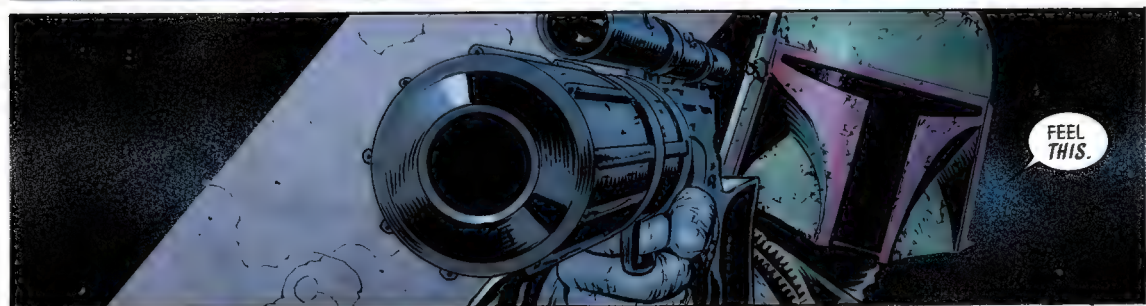
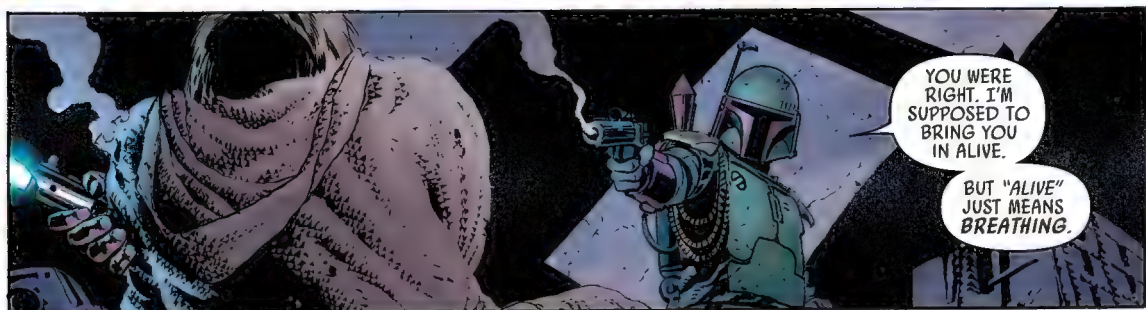


NOBODY
BUT YOU AND
ME.

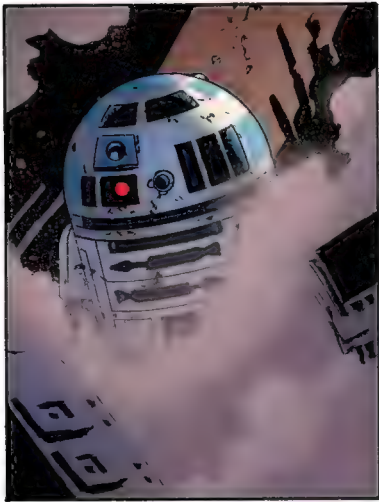
YOU
EVER HAD
CORELLIAN
WINE?

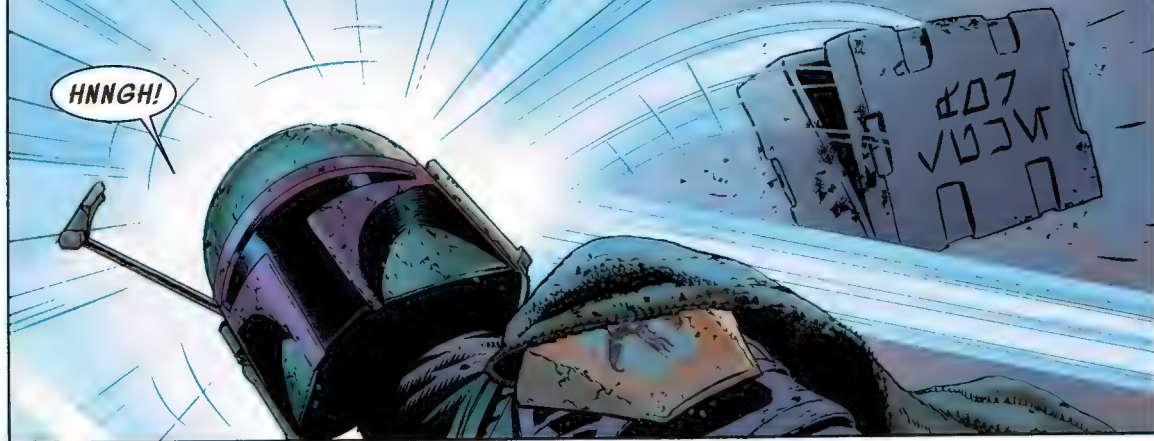










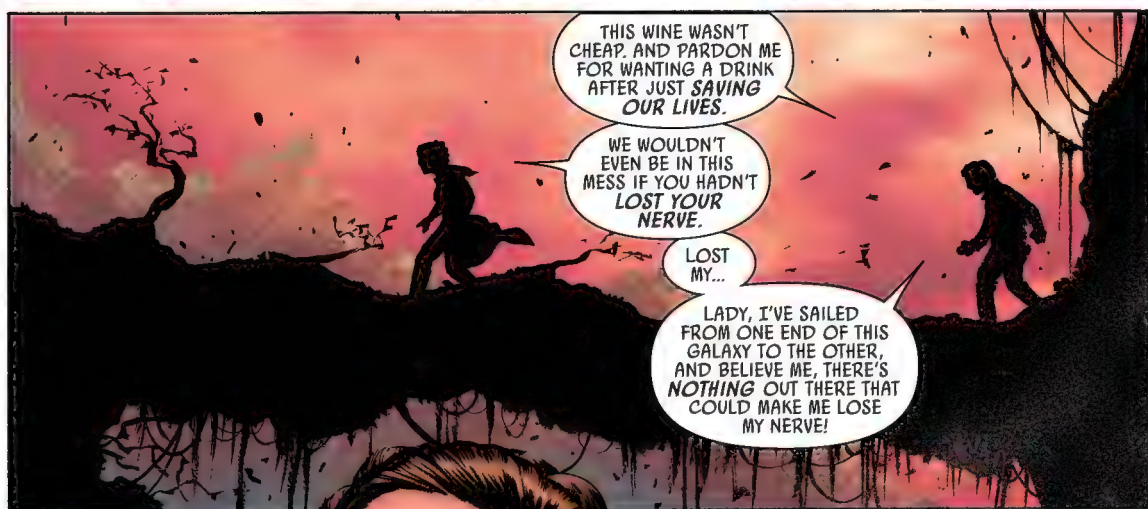




THAT'S NOT
NORMALLY HOW
I DRINK MY
CORELLIAN
WINE.

THIS IS *LOW*,
EVEN FOR A
SCOUNDREL
LIKE YOU.

WE ARE
RUNNING FOR
OUR LIVES FROM
THE EMPIRE WHILE
ON A MISSION OF
VITAL IMPORTANCE
TO THE REBELLION.
THIS IS NO TIME
FOR YOUR CHEAP
ATTEMPTS AT
SEDUCTION.



THIS WINE WASN'T
CHEAP. AND PARDON ME
FOR WANTING A DRINK
AFTER JUST *SAVING*
OUR LIVES.

WE WOULDN'T
EVEN BE IN THIS
MESS IF YOU HADN'T
LOST YOUR
NERVE.

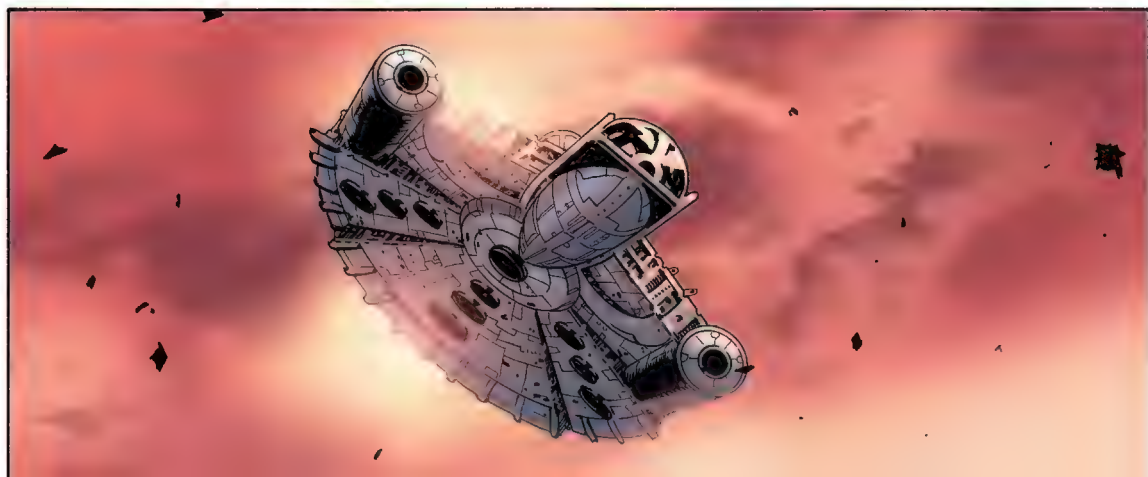
LOST
MY...

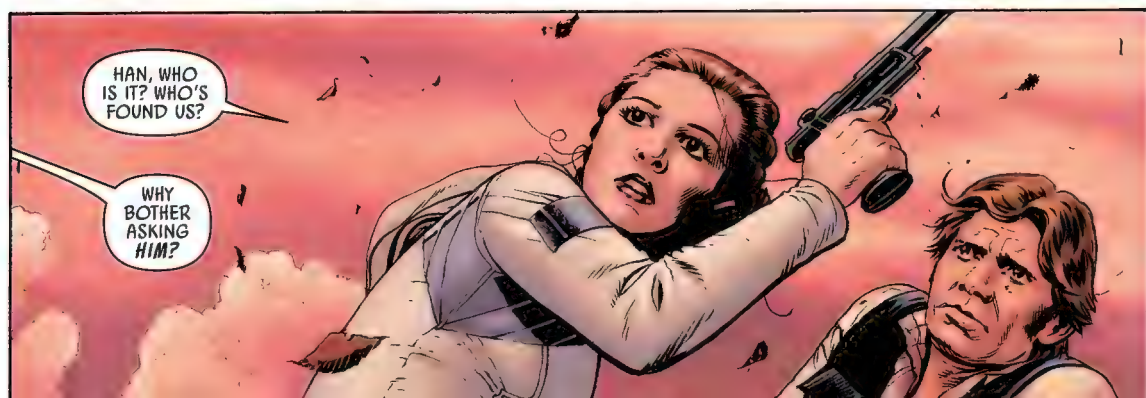
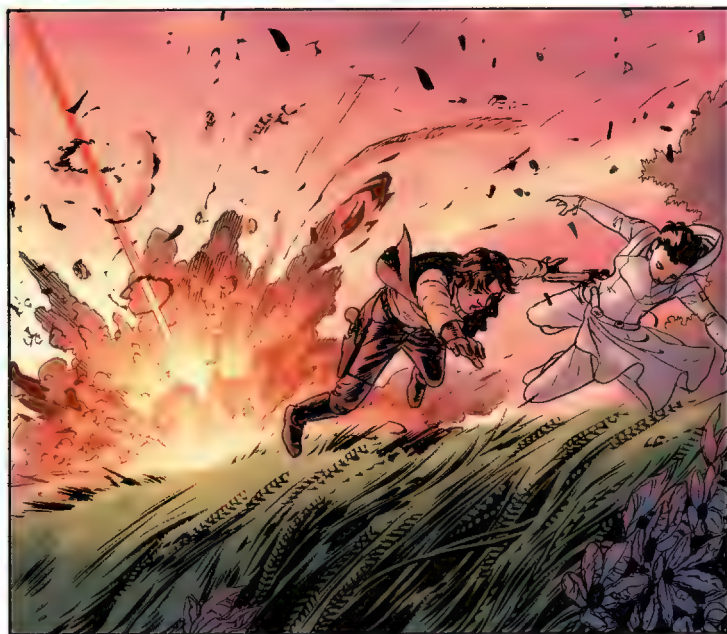
LADY, I'VE SAILED
FROM ONE END OF THIS
GALAXY TO THE OTHER,
AND BELIEVE ME, THERE'S
NOTHING OUT THERE THAT
COULD MAKE ME LOSE
MY NERVE!



DID YOU
HEAR THAT?
SOUNDED LIKE
A *SHIP*.

AND FOR THE
RECORD, I WAS
NOT TRYING TO
SEDUCE YOU! I'D
SOONER SEDUCE
A *GUNDARK*!







HE'D JUST
LIE.

IT'S THE ONLY
THING HE'S EVER
BEEN GOOD
AT.

I SHOULD
KNOW.

THE NAME
IS *SANA*
SOLO.

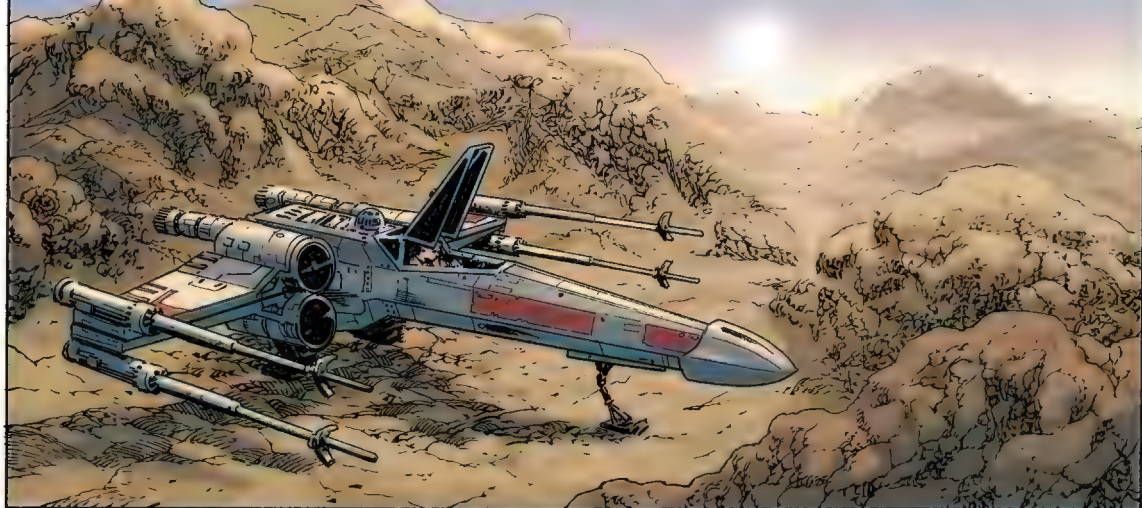
I'M HIS
WIFE.

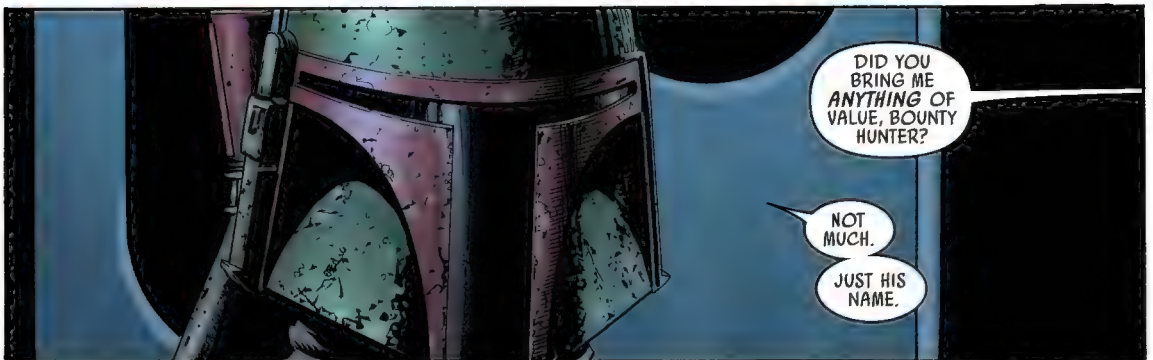
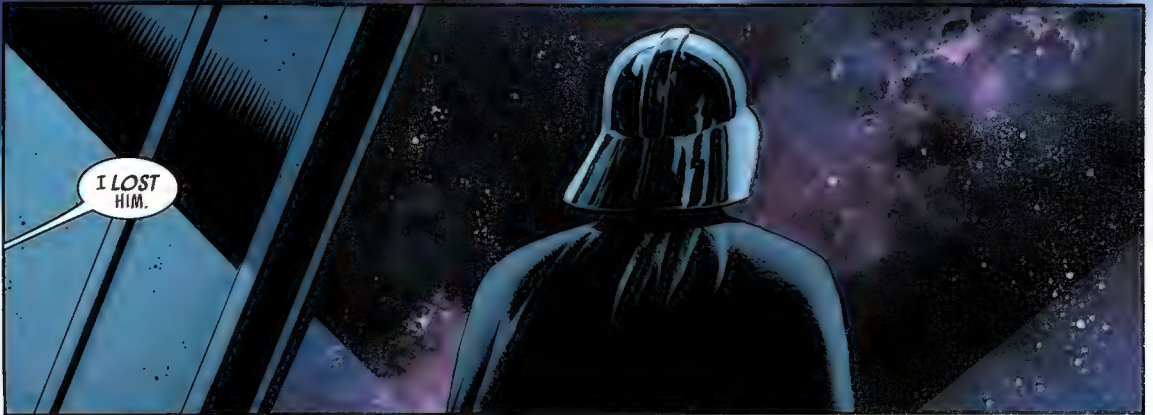


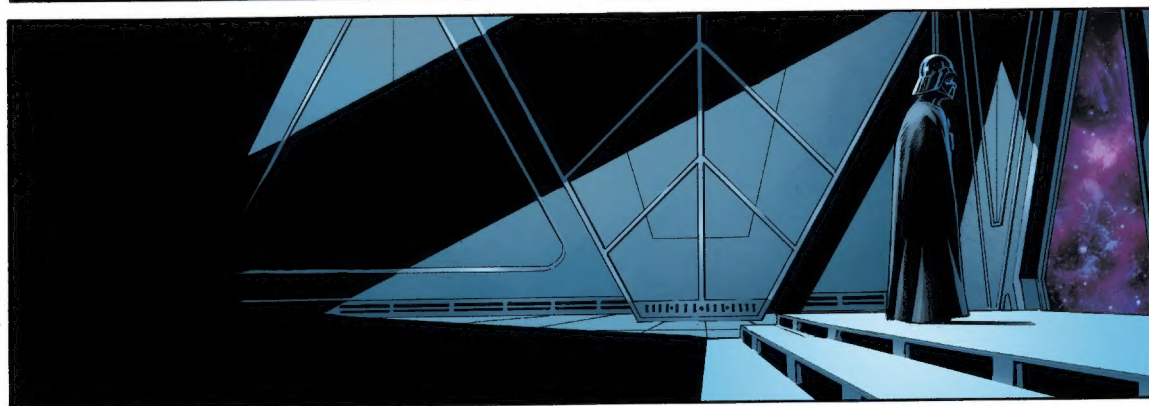
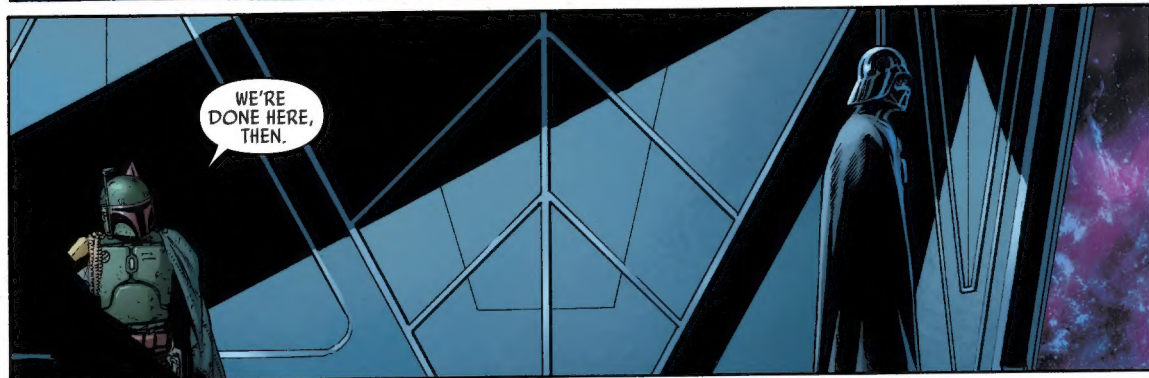
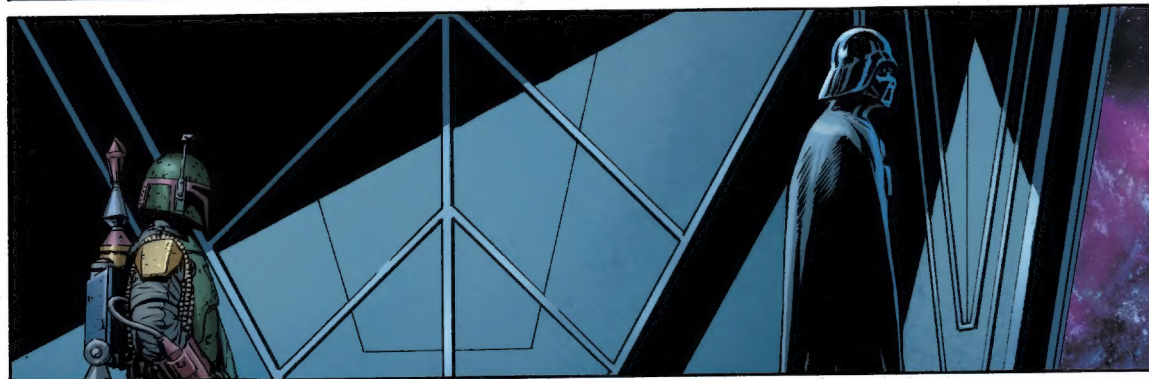
OH NO.

WIFE?

NOW WHO
IN THE HELL
MIGHT YOU BE,
LADY?







SKYWALKER.



STAR WARS

Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if you want to make it into a future letters page.
Don't forget to mark the letter "OK TO PRINT."

Hello and welcome to the first Marvel Comics *Star Wars* letters column in... wow, 29 years. How wild is that? Marvel published the very first *Star Wars* comic book back in April 1977, more than a month before the original film was even released. That series ran for 107 issues, plus Annuals and a *Return of the Jedi* mini-series. The last issue came out in June of 1986. So it's been that long since we were able to do something like this in the pages of a Marvel comic.

Let me start things off just by saying how thrilled I am to be part of all this. I'm Jason Aaron, by the way, the guy who writes the book you're now holding. And hopefully it shows within the pages of each and every issue of this series just how much fun I'm having. How much fun we're ALL having. I'm sure I speak for all of us here in a galaxy far, far away when I say...THANK YOU! Thank you for the amazing response to these new *Star Wars* comics. In case you didn't hear, the first issue of this series sold over a million copies, making it the best-selling American comic book in 20 years. And pretty much every issue since has sold out and gone into multiple printings. And that's not just with this series. Marvel's *Darth Vader* and *Princess Leia* series have been chart-topping hits. It's certainly an exciting time to be a part of the *Star Wars* universe. And as far as I'm concerned, we're just getting started.

Now bring on the letters!

Hi -

Just wanted to send all of the folks working on *Star Wars* a note to say "thanks" - I'd never read a comic until I picked up *Star Wars* #1 and I was very pleasantly swept off my feet. Y'all are doing a great job with the characters and I can't wait to see where the story goes from here. This has been my gateway into other comics (not sure my wallet is as grateful for that as I am) - I've since discovered and plowed my way through a handful of other series and am now hopelessly addicted and await each Wednesday with bated breath.

Thanks again - can't wait to see what's ahead.

Heath

Welcome to the fold, Heath. You've made a wise decision.

I can't remember a time where a new

monthly title started out with such a bang. When you guys were given the assignment to do *Star Wars* did you feel like kids in a candy shop? Keep up the good work-

Justin Reeves
Pleasant Grove, Utah

I still feel like a kid in a candy shop, Justin. I think we all do. When we first started putting together these new *Star Wars* titles, a bunch of us from Marvel went out to San Francisco for meetings with Lucasfilm, and as a part of that, we got a tour of the Skywalker Ranch and the Lucasfilm archives. So yeah, we definitely all felt like kids that day, as we stood in a room surrounded by lightsabers and blasters and speeder bikes. And even the Ark of the Covenant! I've tried to retain that feeling and put it into every issue of this series.

Hi,

I just read *Star Wars* #4! It is awesome! I really like how the *Star Wars* and *Darth Vader* series are closely connected! I can't wait to read #5 and to see what happens when Boba Fett catches up to Luke! I hope Boba Fett gets his own comic series soon!

Troy Vevasis

Thanks, Troy. And yeah, you'll continue to see a strong connection between this series and writer Kieron Gillen's DARTH VADER. No plans just yet for a Boba Fett series, but you never know when that guy might be popping up next.

Hey Guys and Gals!

Once again, thanks for putting out a great issue this month. It definitely sets up the new arc well, and it is neat to see Darth Vader in the company of the galaxy's favorite Hutt. I know this is a little on the speculative side, but...the female "bounty hunter"...She seems to dress in a way that is somewhat familiar to a certain Emperor's Hand from the Legends universe. Is there some sort of link here? Am I pulling at straws? I hope a little more info is shared with us in coming issues regarding this character. If you're reintroducing who I speculate you are, then boy, am I every excited! If it's a new character, then all I can say is that you've designed quite the cold, calculating, and dangerous woman! Mysterious characters aside,

I just wanted to say that the way the classic characters have been written and approached is really close to how they original were portrayed. This is definitely a strong point that has been present in all of the books so far, and the team is doing a great job here. Han's character, mannerisms, and essence in particular have been pretty accurate so far. Okay, there's my two cents worth. Looking forward to seeing what the future holds. May the Force be with you!

All the best,
Stephen

P.S. - Boba Fett sure means business, doesn't he?

Yes, he does, Stephen. Hope you enjoyed this issue's big throw down between Fett and Luke. And as for the mysterious new character you mention...well, as you can see from the end of this very issue, she's not exactly what you were expecting. But there's clearly a lot more mystery left to explore when it comes to her.

Hey guys! Love the comic, you've really managed to capture the magic of the original trilogy. Who are your favorite *Star Wars* characters and why?

May the Force be with you,
Bryan in NY

My favorite one to write has probably been Vader. He's such a terrific villain. And I've loved being able to have him cut loose and really kick some butt. Anybody else wanna chime in?

Jordan D. White: C-3PO is my favorite character. He makes me smile—he's very put upon and a very unwitting participant in much of the saga...but I think he rings super true, and I feel bad for him.

Heather Antos: I have to say D-D-0 and BT are probably the most fun for me. What's better than evil assassina versions of C-3PO and R2-D2?

First of all, I want to say thank you to Mr. Jason Aaron and to Marvel for bringing this incredible set of comics into the world! I can't tell you how important *Star Wars* is to me. As a child, my dad left the family and he left a lot of his belongings behind. One of the things he, seemingly (yet I can't understand how), forgot was

a copy of the original trilogy on VHS. I stumbled upon them and decided I'd make a day of watching. Despite somehow getting the tapes mixed up and accidentally watching *Empire* before *A New Hope*, I had found my first true love!

All those incredible moments, watching the movies then, are forever seared into my mind, and here are these incredible books capturing everything I love about Star Wars, but imbued with a certain newfangled flair, that I can't seem to put down. You're doing it perfectly (in at least one fan's opinion), so please don't stop any time soon. I truly can't wait to see where this story is going, and I need to know what's in that box!

- Scott Pelzer
Huntsville, AL

Thanks for the great letter, Scott. Glad you're enjoying the ride. This issue, you got a glimpse of what was inside that mysterious box. And next issue, you'll learn even more of its secrets.

Hi,

My name is James, and I am five years old. Your *Star Wars* comics are awesome. My dad reads *Star Wars* to me every month. I like the stories because they have a lot of action. I want to see Wicket in the comic.

James L.

Hey, thanks, James! I love to hear that you and your dad are reading the book together. I do the same thing with my son. And hey, I'm a big Wicket fan too. There are no plans right now for any Ewoks to show up in this series, but I'll see what I can do.

First off I want to say great work to everyone involved. I've been a long time *Star Wars* fan and I'm eating up this in-between episodes 4 and 5 story arc. I also really enjoy the artwork and can't even start to imagine the time and effort it's taking to get these books out on schedule. Hats off to everyone. Now the question: Since this is all canon with the *Star Wars* universe, how much leeway do the writers have in the story? Obviously we all know the main cast survives their close calls with Vader and eventually Boba Fett (I really want to see a space battle between Boba Fett and Luke. *Slave I* vs X-wing would be EPIC) so the suspense is kind of moot. However I'm still excited to see what other characters will be showing up in this story arc. (IG-88 maybe?) Without spoiling too much, how far is this story going to go? And when the story catches up to *Empire* will

it gloss over the events of the film and start in after? Granted I'm getting ahead of myself but I really hope this continues on and beyond the new films currently in the works. I guess I should stop now just in case this does get printed. I don't want to kill space for other people's letters.

Thanks for another great comic for my pull,

Jon McManus
Ontario Canada.

Hey, Jon. As you can see this issue, we have been able to mix things up a bit and put together a few surprises, like having Luke go face-to-face with Boba Fett and introducing a new character with a rather surprising connection to Han Solo. Going forward, that will continue to be the plan. There'll be more existing characters popping up from time to time, including some of those bounty hunters like IG-88. And there'll be more new characters as well. And more interesting and surprising encounters. As for how this series eventually dovetails with *Empire Strikes Back*...I'm afraid you'll just have to wait and see on that one. As far as I'm concerned, we've got a lot more stories to go before we get to that point.

Jason, John, Laura and Chris...THANK YOU!!

How cool is it to be playing in this universe??

I've been having a blast reading the four issues that are out so far and can't wait for more!

Jason, the writing is fantastic! I can easily hear the characters say their dialogue in my head. From little quips that Solo says to the powerful commanding tone that Vader possesses, everyone is spot-on and feels right. The new character in #4 has already piqued my interest and I'm excited to see everyone's paths start to cross.

John and Laura, the art is incredible! Really digging the double pages in the issues so far, especially Vader in Jabba's palace!

Also, how was sitting down with the story group? Do you know the basic plot of *The Force Awakens* and everything else going on so you don't contradict anything? Thanks!

May the Force be with you... always!!

-Kyle V, Dark Lord of the Sith

P.S. Keep the Fett coming!!

Sitting down with the Lucasfilm Story Group is always a blast. Those people really live and breathe all things *Star Wars*, so it's always exciting to work

out story details with them. As for *The Force Awakens*, I probably don't know much more about it than you do. What I do know for certain is that I'll be right there in line come December.

Dear *Star Wars* Team,

When Marvel announced they were doing a *Star Wars* book I was pretty stoked. Then they announced the amazing team of Mr. Aaron, Mr. Cassaday, Ms. Martin and Mr. Eliopoulos and I was sold. Four issues later and it has been an amazing ride. The story instantly dropped me into a familiar territory with characters that I've missed dearly. I'm sure I'm not the only one who listens to John Williams as I read these books and that's what makes it so fun and enjoyable. A tip of the hat to Mr. Cassaday for making all the pages look so great. Keep up the great work, all of you! May the Force be with you!

-Mason Tripp

You're definitely not the only one who pulls out the John Williams score, Mason. I do it whenever I sit down to write the book. And yes, hats off to our amazing art team. Unfortunately, this is the last issue for artist John Cassaday. For now at least. Given how huge a *Star Wars* fan John is and how much fun he's been having (which shows in his gorgeous pages), I'd be really surprised if we'd seen the last of him around these parts.

Which brings us to next issue, which we'll be opening the pages of Ben Kenobi's journals for a special flashback adventure. And we'll also welcome the incredible artist Simone Bianchi to these pages. Simone and I have worked together before on a dark little origin story called *Thanos Rising*. Now you'll get to see the *Star Wars* universe through the lens of Simone's amazing style. Exactly what sort of mischief did Old Ben get up to all those years he was hiding out on Tatooine? Next issue, we start to find out.

And after that, our next big arc kicks off in issue #8 and sees superstar artist Stuart Immonen join the team. Who is Sana Solo? Where does Luke go next? And what is the secret of the Smuggler's Moon? Those answers and more surprises are coming your way. Hope to see you there.

Until then, may the Force be...well, you know.

Jason Aaron
KC, May the 4th, 2015